<u>**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**</u>

1-12(Cancelled).

13(New).   A piston ring having at lest one operating surface, an upper face and a lower face, where the operating surface includes an HVOF-applied layering having a surface roughness factor Rk<0.12μm.

14(New).   The piston ring according to claim 13 wherein the layering has a surface roughness factor of Rk<0.10μm.

15(New).   The piston ring according to claim 13 wherein the layering has a surface roughness factor Rk<0.08μm.

16(New).   The piston ring according to claim 13 wherein the layering comprises carbide materials.

17(New).   The piston ring according to claim 13, wherein the layering is made of carbide materials selected from the group consisting of WC and/or TiC, and/or CrC.

18(New).   The piston ring according to claim 13 wherein the layering has a porosity of <5%.

19(New).   The piston ring according to claim 13 wherein at least one of the upper and lower faces is at least partially trapezoidal in form.

20(New).   The piston ring according to claim 19 wherein the at least one trapezoidal formed face area is provided with a galvanic protective layer.

21(New).   The piston ring according to claim 20 wherein the galvanic protective layer is chrome-based material.

22(New).   The piston ring according to claim 21 wherein the galvanic layer has a thickness between 1μm and 20μm.

23(New).   A method of making piston rings, including gathering a plurality of piston rings in a packet of such rings, exposing operating surfaces of the packet of rings to a HVOF process whereby a layering of thermal sprayed material is applied to the operating surfaces; forming at least part of an upper and lower surfaces of the individual rings into a trapezoidal shape and applying a galvanic layer over the trapezoidal areas.

24(New).   The method of claim 23 wherein when applying the layering a porosity <5% and an upper surface roughness measured in an axial direction of Rk<0.10μm in the layering is obtained.

25(New).   The method of claim 23 wherein the galvanized layer has a thickness between 1 and 20μm.